

MIAMI COUNTY COUNCIL  
25 NORTH BROADWAY  
PERU, INDIANA 46970  
November 18, 2014

Council President Ralph Duckwall called the meeting to order. Councilman Wiles led the group in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Hunt – Present  
Councilwoman Harp – Present  
Councilman Boyer – Absent  
Councilman McAuliffe – Present  
Councilman Wiles – Present  
Councilwoman Mull – Present  
Councilman Duckwall – Present

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

President Duckwall stated that Councilman Boyer is absent due to being in the hospital and asked that everyone keep him in their prayers.

**MINUTES**

None

**APPROPRIATIONS/TRANSFERS**

**C.E.D.I.T.**

Jim Tidd, MCEDA, explained about the Regional Planning Council and that each County has a representative. Each County has a membership fee that they need to pay. Miami County still owes \$7,104. Councilman McAuliffe asked why that amount could not come out of the \$43,000 the County pays MCEDA. Mr. Tidd replied that the \$43,000 is to pay for administrative duties and this is outside of that. Councilman Wiles made a motion to appropriate the \$7,104 out of C.E.D.I.T. Councilwoman Harp 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 5-1 (McAuliffe).

**HIGHWAY**

The Highway Department asked for an additional appropriation of \$3,665 to pay out the clerk at the Highway department who is being let go due to reduction in force. Councilman McAuliffe made a motion to approve. Councilwoman Mull 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 6-0.

**EMA**

Kris Marks asked for \$1,500 be appropriated out of his non-reverting fund to pay for his end of the year meeting. Councilwoman Harp asked where the money in the non-reverting fund comes from. Mr. Marks stated it comes from payment of services performed by his volunteers. Councilwoman Mull made a motion to approve. Councilman Hunt 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 6-0.

**RIVERBOAT**

An additional appropriation of \$400,000 out of Riverboat was asked for to help with health care cost. Councilman Wiles made a motion to approve but only to

be used if absolutely necessary. Councilwoman Mull 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 6-0.

### **RAINY DAY FUND**

An appropriation of \$250,000 from the Rainy Day Fund was advertised. After some discussion by the Council members, the decision to not appropriate any money out of the Rainy Day fund was made.

President Duckwall announced that the December meeting of the Council will need to be December 10<sup>th</sup> instead of December 16<sup>th</sup> to be able to ask for an additional appropriation out of County General to pay for any additional health care cost.

### **TRANSFERS**

#### **9-1-1**

Cliff Gardner explained that he will need to move \$2,000 from his other services category to his capital outlay category to pay for radio upgrades. Councilman McAuliffe made a motion to allow. Councilwoman Mull 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 6-0.

### **LOCAL OPTION HIGHWAY USE TAX (LOHUT)**

President Duckwall explained that there was a public hearing on November 12<sup>th</sup> regarding the implementation of a LOHUT Tax. The tax is essential to the County at this time because Highway revenue is down as well as the \$300,000 that used to be appropriated for the Highway from the C.E.D.I.T. fund has had to be cut as well.

Councilman Hunt asked why recreational vehicles were only going to be charged \$20 and farm equipment more. President Duckwall stated it was due to the limited use. Councilman Hunt said if they could afford a \$100,000 recreational vehicle, they could afford a \$40 tax.

Councilwoman Mull made a motion to approve the LOHUT as presented (Ordinance 11-18-2014). Councilman Wiles 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 5-1 (Harp).

### **SOLID WASTE – Technical Correction**

The State requires a separate signed Form 4 for Solid Waste. Councilwoman Mull made a motion to a separate Form 4 for Solid Waste. Councilman McAuliffe 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 6-0.

### **REQUEST FOR AUDIENCE**

NONE

### **COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

Councilman Hunt stated that several people has asked him why the County would buy a buiding when laying employees off. Commissioner Chairman Francis answered that the money for the building would not come out of County General but a different fund. The Commissioners have considered buying the Mock Insurance building and tearing it down for parking because it is very hard to find parking around the Courthouse especially at lunch time.

Shirley Mull stated that she is off of the Four County Mental Health Board as of October. She has been replaced by Kenny Hanson.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jill Sharp stated that she has lived in Miami County all of her life and feels like she is being double taxed because she pays her vehicle registration and the excise and now she will be taxed again with the LOHUT. She is trying to raise a family here and it is just tax, tax, tax, it's not fair. President Duckwall stated that we are number 50 out of 92 counties to implement the tax. The State would force us at some point in time to do it. The counties that have the LOHUT tend to get more money returned to them from the State.

Bob Sutero asked why we reduced the amount to pay (lottery money) only to raise it back up with another tax. The poverty level in Miami County is very low. Mr. Sutero also said people with more than 1 vehicle won't pay the tax, they will move the plates around.

Councilwoman Harp thanked all the people who came to the meeting tonight.

Councilwoman Mull made a motion to adjourn. Councilman McAuliffe 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 6-0.

Respectfully submitted

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Jane Lilley  
Miami County Auditor